As you may know, we have a Special Pastor’s Fund that enables Asbury to help those who are in vulnerable situations. I want to take this opportunity to share a couple of stories of how we have used this fund to help others and in doing so are being God’s love through our hands, our hospitality, and our bank account.

We are currently helping a family who is moving from Ohio to Southern California. The move is, in part, to get better services for their severely autistic daughter, and improved job prospects for the father (tow truck driver). Their van broke down in Livermore. The family has purchased a used truck which needed some work. So the Special Pastor’s Fund has provided a hotel room for them and purchased needed parts for the truck. The father is repairing the truck in Asbury’s parking lot and several in our church community have been working with the family to help them recover from this set-back and get back on the road to their destination.

Another family, in our congregation, had a one-month lapse between health insurance policies and a family member became quite ill during that month. The Special Pastor’s Fund helped to cover the expense of an emergency room visit and thus helped to stabilize that family while they were in this transition. Thank you for your support of the Special Pastor’s Fund which enables us to respond in significant ways to the vulnerable in our midst and to be the hearts and hands of Jesus in the world.

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During the month of June, the Pastors and Lay Members from each United Methodist Church gather for our Annual Conference Session in which we worship, adopt budgets, ordain pastors, and advance our mission strategy. Pastor Chelsea and I will attend along with our Lay Members, Dave David, Marsha Howard and Cal Johnson. This year’s Annual Conference Session will be in Modesto June 19-22. Visitors are always welcome. For more information check out the link: https://www.cnumc.org/eventdetail/4615078

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So what is up in our denomination since the ruling of the Judicial Council that parts of the Traditional Plan were legal and would take effect on January 1, 2020? During May there have been a couple of national meetings of Centrists and Progressives working to discern a path ahead to a church that has Wesleyan roots and is fully open and inclusive for all peoples.

Other plans are also being worked on such as the Bard/Jones plan. Two bishops, each representing differing positions in the debate regarding the issue of human sexuality, have joined to identify a path toward the dismantlement of The United Methodist Church and the creation of successor denominational bodies. Bishop Scott Jones of Texas and Bishop David Bard of Michigan have begun work on a plan that would allow all churches to disaffiliate from the UMC and join one of two or three successor structures.

Chancellors (attorneys) for the Annual Conferences have been in conversation about whether we could hold a constitutional General Conference to speed up the work on things that change our constitution. Structural change will take some time but the majority of the US and Western European United Methodists are committed to growing a church that is a home for all people. If you haven’t already done so, I encourage you to sign up for information from the Western Jurisdiction http://westernjurisdictionumc.org/ahomeforall/

As always, I am happy to talk to you about any of the above or any other matters.

Blessings,
Pastor Kathy

Katherine Parker, United Methodist Missionary to Nepal, will speak at Asbury on Sunday, June 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Katherine serves as a Health and Community Transformation Advisor with the United Mission to Nepal (UMN). The ecumenical ministry of UMN has a vision of a “fullness of life for all in a transformed Nepali society.” United Methodists have been involved with UMN since it was founded in 1954. More information on its work is available on the UMN website. All are welcome at this event.

Katherine’s work in Nepal is focused on three areas: 1) Adolescent empowerment, including sexual reproductive health and rights and menstrual hygiene; 2) Maternal and child health; and 3) Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). The UMN works in five areas for community transformation: education, health, hospitals, peacebuilding, and sustainable livelihoods. For more information on Katherine check out her page on our UMC Missions website: https://advance.umcmission.org/p-1547-katherine-parker.aspx

Katherine is doing incredibly important and exciting work in Nepal, so don’t miss this opportunity to learn of this wonderful work and person. We will take a love offering for Katherine’s work and are exploring the possibility of becoming a partner church with her.
Celebrate Community

Ladies’ Night Out
Tuesday, June 4, 6:00 p.m.
All women of Asbury are invited to Ladies’ Night Out in which we meet at a local restaurant for dinner. This month, we’ll be going to Peking Restaurant at 4510 Las Positas Blvd. in Livermore (in the Target shopping center). RSVP to Nancy Grover through the church office (925-447-1950) so she can notify the restaurant how many to expect.

Rally for Love
Sunday, June 9, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Come to the Bankhead Theater Plaza for an event which celebrates diversity in our community. There will be music, speakers, and art opportunities.

Senior/Retiree Luncheon
Thursday, June 13, 12:00 p.m.
All seniors and retirees are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall for Chef Coleman Johnson’s pork roast and mashed potatoes, salad and dessert. The cost is $5.00 each. Sign up after worship or call the church office at 925-447-1950. See you there!

Dine and Dawdle
Thursday, June 27, 6:00 p.m.
A favorite Asbury tradition is back starting June 27. Watch the weekly bulletin for details.

Young Adult Activities

• June 2: Young Adult Lunch Out, after worship
• June 6: Young Adult Bible Study, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
• June 27: Young Adult Bible Study, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Grow In Faith

Interfaith Interconnect June Religion Chat and Tour of Hindu Temple
Wednesday, June 12, 6:00 p.m.
We continue last month’s topic, “What Does Your Faith Do To Make the World a Better Place?” with presentations from the Baha’i and Muslim communities. The talk will be held at the Hindu Community and Cultural Center, 1232 Arrowhead Ave., Livermore. The doors of the center will be open from 6:00 p.m. to encourage attendees to visit with each other. The program will run from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. At 7:15 p.m. volunteers will be available to take attendees on an optional tour of the fascinating Hindu Temple. There is no charge for this event, and all are welcome.
New Newborn Items Needed for BUNDLES OF JOY

In June Asbury is collecting items for Bundles of Joy. BUNDLES OF JOY provides a starter set of new baby care items and newborn clothing to low income and/or uninsured families in the Tri-Valley who participate in the prenatal program provided by Axis Community Health. The BUNDLE is an uplifting and much appreciated gift for these new mothers. Donations in the collection boxes in the office and sanctuary of any of the following newborn-size items will be used to prepare the BUNDLES: diaper bag, diapers, wipes, baby wash, powder, or ointment, newborn outfit, onesie, socks, hat, bib, rattle, pacifier, stuffed animal, blanket.

Wheelchair Mission Special Offering

Asbury is once again joining Lynnewood and San Ramon Valley UMC’s in special offerings to purchase wheelchairs to be given to disabled poor in Latin America. These robust wheelchairs, which cost about $150 each, literally change the lives of their recipients and their families. Because of a generous matching grant each donation will actually improve the lives of two recipients and families. Please consider supporting this worthy ministry.

Faith Groups Restart at Habitat’s Central Commons Project in July

Habitat’s Central Commons development in Fremont is preparing infrastructure for the second phase of 19 homes, and there will not be a volunteer workday in June. A regular faiths group monthly workday will begin again in July—usually on the first Saturday. Since the first Saturday in July is during the 4th of July holiday weekend, our workday that month may be July 13.

Repair Byron UMC Parsonage in June

The parsonage at Byron UMC needs some interior and exterior repairs before it can be occupied or rented. Dick Crawford is leading the effort to organize Asbury volunteers to do this work. The target timeframe is early June. For information or to volunteer, contact Dick.

Help with Wildfire Recovery in Mendocino County, CA

July 21-July 26

Mendocino County has seen several devastating wildfires the last couple of years. A Volunteer in Mission (VIM) team from Tri-Valley Methodist churches will assist with building homes for families that are challenged to do so on their own. We will be staying at the Hope City team housing in Redwood Valley. Volunteers will carpool on Sunday, July 21 and return the evening of Friday, July 26. The cost of the trip is $125. Registration is now open and closes July 7. Pick up an information and registration packet at the Serving Others With Love table after worship.

Help with Wildfire Recovery in Middletown, CA

September 29-October 5

A Tri-Valley UMC VIM team will return to Middletown, CA to again help with recovery from the Valley Fire that devastated the area in 2015. Details for the trip will be provided later this summer.

UMW Donations

At the end of each year, United Methodist Women send money to causes important to our members. This year we were able to make three sizable donations. One went to Asbury to help support our Sanctuary Program. Another went to Tri Valley Haven to help the fight against human trafficking. And our third donation went to the UMW Conference Treasurer’s family whose daughter lost her home in the 2018 Camp Fire. For information about these contributions, please contact Pat Van Lehn.
Confidentiality is a cornerstone of Stephen Ministry because it is absolutely essential for building safe, healing, caring relationships.

Stephen Ministry is confidential. Stephen Ministers don't reveal what their care receivers have told them. Not to the pastors, not to the Stephen Leaders, not to their spouses or friends, and not to other Stephen Ministers.

Why? Because trust is vital for a caring relationship to be effective. Care receivers are experiencing difficulties that leave them feeling very vulnerable. Discussing their innermost feelings is an important step in the healing process. But in order to open up and discuss that which is troubling them most, care receivers need complete trust in their Stephen Minister and the assurance that what they say will not be circulated to others and become news for gossip.

This assurance builds trust and creates a safe place where care receivers can risk revealing their most painful issues—problems they might not even discuss with close friends or family. Confidentiality helps create a relationship that promotes healing and hope.

Another aspect of confidentiality is that nobody—except the Stephen Minister, care receiver, or Stephen Leader who matched the two together—even knows that a care receiver has a Stephen Minister. Care receivers, of course, are free to tell others about the relationship and who their Stephen Minister is, but the Stephen Minister never tells. This means a care receiver can choose to have complete anonymity so that if he or she doesn't want people even to know that he or she has a Stephen Minister, nobody will ever know.

One final point involving confidentiality involves the Stephen Ministry model of supervision, where confidentiality is also a key element. (Supervision, done twice monthly, is vital to Stephen Ministry so that Stephen Ministers can provide the best quality care possible to their care receivers.) In supervision the focus of discussion is on the relationship between the Stephen Minister and the care receiver, rather than the details of what is going on in a care receiver's life. By not revealing a care receiver's name or any significant details, confidentiality is maintained, and supervision becomes a place where Stephen Ministers can support and encourage one another in ministry while they provide the best quality care to their care receivers. It's a model that has enabled life-changing ministry to happen in thousands of Stephen Ministry congregations since 1975.

Why this talk about confidentiality? To build your trust in Stephen Ministry. It is a high-quality caregiving ministry that you can count on should you ever have the need. Confidentiality is a cornerstone of good ministry—and of our Stephen Ministry at Asbury.

As a congregation, we will be commissioning our newest Stephen Ministers, Jon Hart and Mick Lamb, this month. Watch the bulletins for the date!

If you’d like to learn more about Stephen Ministry or would like to explore having a Stephen Minister assigned to you, please contact Pastor Kathy La Point-Collup or Pastor Chelsea Constant through the church office (925-447-1950), or any of our other Stephen Leaders at Asbury.

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Children’s Ministries

Celebrating our Promoting Fifth Graders in Sunday school with their class in room 4 Sunday, June 2.

Friday Night Fun
Friday, June 14, 3:00-6:00 p.m.
Swimming and poolside fun at LARPD’s Recreation Center at 4444 East Avenue. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join in the fun.

United Methodist Church Camp
Sunday, July 7-Saturday, July 13
United Methodist Church Camp at Monte Toyon in Aptos, CA. Grades three through nine attend as campers and grades ten through twelve can attend as Leaders in Training. We have had many children and youth attend this wonderful camp. Jenna Stark, a former Asburyite, is the Camp Director and is super awesome. For more information and to register go to www.calnevypm.org.

Pre-K through Fifth Grade Sunday School
We are journeying through “A Joyful Path” curriculum series.

“To Mars and Beyond?” VBS program
Wednesday, July 17-Friday, July 19, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Our VBS performing arts showcase, waterslide and community lunch is Sunday, July 21. Registration forms for children entering kindergarten in fall 2019 through sixth grade, and for volunteers are available on our website, at the church office, in the Fellowship Hall after worship, and room 6. If you have questions, please Jackie Bennett through the church office. We need volunteers to make this wonderful program happen.

Sunday School Offering Collection Update – the children raised over $224 for UMCOR to support those affected by the 2018 California fires, and celebrated their accomplishment on May 26 with a movie, popcorn, and root beer floats. Beginning June 2, Sunday school offerings will go to Partners for Change.

Nursery Staff Needed
Do you enjoy spending quality time with the youngest members of our community and supporting their parents’ spiritual development? If the answer is yes, then come join the nursery care staff who are paid to work rotating Sundays and special events. Contact Pam Tegge or Jackie Bennett through the church office for more information.

Summer Youth Happenings

- June 2: Youth Group, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- June 9: Last Youth Group before summer, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- June 23: Del Valle Kayaking and Lake Day, 3:00-7:00 p.m.
- June 30: Youth Pool Party at the Lobaos’, 3:00-7:30 p.m.
- July 2: Game Night 7:30-9:30 p.m. (rising sixth graders welcome)
- July 7: Shakespeare in the Park 6:00 p.m. RSVP with Chelsea by June 30
- July 14-15: Youth Camping Lock-in
- July 24: Six Flags trip
- July 28-August 4: Sierra Service Project
- August 11: Youth Mission Sunday
- August 11: Boomers Mini Golf 4:30-7:00 p.m. (rising sixth graders welcome)
Fertile GroundWorks Update

I want to thank you all for your overwhelming generosity in support of Fertile GroundWorks. I could hardly believe it when Dave David told me that you had donated $5,000.00 through your Easter offerings. WOW! Dick Crawford will be passing your donations through the CHEF program to increase them to $7,500.00. Many thanks to Ms. King for sharing the CHEF program with us.

We will be using the funds to procure the irrigation supplies for Fertile GroundWorks’ new orchard and expanded garden beds. Over the next few years the orchard and expansion will allow us to provide tree fruits and double the amount of fresh organically grown vegetables we can share with our neighbors, Open Heart Kitchen, and local food pantries. The funds will also be used to help obtain a new reverse tiller for the tractor. I am told by Bruce and Steve that a reverse tiller will work really well to put the expanded bed space into production and help us to grow the most vegetables we can in those beds.

In the month of May we were able to harvest 1,245 pounds of fresh vegetables to share. Despite the unsettled weather this past month we have been working hard to swap our winter crops for our summer crops. We have managed to transplant 211 tomato, 145 eggplant, 124 peppers, 53 zucchini and summer squash, 25 cucumbers, 25 winter squash, 90 corn, 33 sweet potato and the last 62 lettuce plants, plus lots of herbs. A big shout out to Bob Hoffman for helping us transplant in our 72 summer broccoli! With the cool weather of late the transplants are growing a bit more slowly than we expected but we have been able to harvest our first zucchini. We are looking forward to the warm weather forecast for June to spur on growth of all the plants.

I also want to thank Steve for all his patient tractor lessons, he did not even laugh at my crooked lines of mowing.

I know there is no way Fertile GroundWorks could do all we do without wonderful supporters like you. You are all truly amazing human beings. THANK YOU!!! for enabling us to TEACH, GROW, and GIVE.

I do hope that you all will be able to come out and enjoy a wander through the garden to see how things are growing there.

Until next we meet, please do take care of yourselves. May your days be filled with kindnesses.

Happy gardening everyone.

As always with sincere gratitude,

Brenda Kusler, Executive Director
Anniversaries and Birthdays

Anniversaries
Bob and Kathy Berger
Dave and Dee Bing
Dave and Jean Braun
Rich and Jan Buckley
Cory and Anne Coll
Dick and Sharmyn Crawford
Eric and Kirsten Cummings
Peter and Susan Danan
Roger and Jane Everett
Jim and Jeannie Lobao
Joe and Maris Medeiros
Hal and Marlys Miller
Tom and Karen Nelson
Eric and Sue Ellen Schell
Bill and Glenda Warren
Kelly Galicia-Thomas
Kelsey Gamble
Ayan Ghannam
Yana Ghannam
Zeya Ghannam
Joelle Goodman
Kelly Gully
Makayla Gully
Chris Hain
Elaine Hancock
Karl Item
Katie Johnson
Hansa Lakamsani
Dwight Levan
Zack Lobao
Lorraine Magee
Janet Malski
June Martin
Paula McClendon
Victoria McPeake
Marisa Medeiros Hooper
Cole Meyers
Karl Meyers
Maggie Muldoon
Diana Nathan
Karen Nelson
Tom Nelson
Tom Petty
Elizabeth Piscotty
Glenn Pomykal
Sean Pomykal
Caitlin Ptak
Javon Rahmaan
Frank Raskauskas
Matthew Schlientz
Ron Schwartz
Joyce Spence
Ray Spooner
Joy Stewart
Rebecca Stewart
Molly Torres
Pat Van Lehn
John Van Scyoc III
Jesse Williams
Jim Wilson
Lena Wilson

Birthdays
Karen Bauman
Jennifer Bernstein
Chris Bing
John Bluck
Cassie Braun
Anne-Marie Calderone
Mikel Campos
Beverly Cavin
Steve Elliott
Nick Evans
Jane Everett
Please visit the Asbury website calendar for the latest updates: www.asburylive.org/events

Weekly Recurring Events

Sundays
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, Sunday School, Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 a.m. Small Group, Room 13 (first and third Sundays only)
- 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room (first and third Sundays only)
- 7:00 p.m. Bible Study, Room 10
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Ringers, Sanctuary

Mondays
- 3:30-5:30 p.m. Open Heart Kitchen, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Fertile GroundWorks, Conference Room (second and fourth Mondays only)

Tuesdays
- 11:00 a.m. Loose Canons
- 12:00 p.m. Open Heart Kitchen, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Alanon/Alateen, Rooms 13-15

Wednesdays
- 12:00 p.m. Open Heart Kitchen, Fellowship Hall
- 5:30 p.m. Partners for Change, Fireside Room

Thursdays
- 10:30 a.m. Women of the Spirit, Fireside Room
- 7:00 p.m. Small Group, Room 10
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Rooms 11-12

Saturdays
- 8:00 a.m. Lawn Crew
- 9:00 a.m. AA, Rooms 11-12
- 10:30 a.m., Caregivers’ Support Group, Fireside Room (second Saturday only)

Other Events and Meetings

June 4, 2019 (Tuesday)
- 6:00 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, Peking Restaurant

June 9, 2019 (Sunday)
- 11:30 a.m. SPRC, Room 10
- 11:30 a.m. Finance, Conference Room

June 13, 2019 (Thursday)
- 12:00 p.m. Senior/Retiree Luncheon, Fellowship Hall

June 14, 2019 (Friday)
- 12-6:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall

June 23, 2019 (Sunday)
- 9:00 a.m. Trustees, Conference Room
- 11:30 a.m., All-Church Meeting on New Office Building, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Missionary Katherine Parker, Chapel

June 30, 2019 (Sunday)
- 11:30 a.m. Church Council, Conference Room
Livermore Community Blood Drive

Friday, June 14, 12:00-6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Every day, Bay Area hospitals need over 300 units of blood. If you’re 17 or older and in good health (or 16 with parental consent) help save the life of someone in need by giving blood. Go to redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code: ASBURY925. Contact Tom Petty for more information. Thank you for helping to save a life by giving blood!

www.AsburyLive.org

Church office hours are:
Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Closed for lunch.

The deadline for the next Asbury Articles is
Friday, June 21, 2019